

(b) **IDENTIFICATION OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED BY ELIGIBLE VETERANS.**—Each fiscal year, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, identify small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans in the United States. The Secretary shall inform each small business concern identified under this paragraph that information on Federal procurement is available from the Administrator.

(c) **SELF-EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.**—The Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to provide for coordination of vocational rehabilitation services, technical and managerial assistance, and financial assistance to veterans, including service-disabled veterans, seeking to employ themselves by forming or expanding small business concerns. The memorandum of understanding shall include recommendations for expanding existing programs or establishing new programs to provide such services or assistance to such veterans.

(d) **DATA COLLECTION REQUIRED.**—The Federal Procurement Data System described in section 6(d)(4)(A) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 405(d)(4)(A)) shall be modified to collect data regarding the percentage and dollar value of prime contracts and subcontracts awarded to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.

TITLE VII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 701. ADMINISTRATOR'S ORDER.

The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall strengthen and reissue the Administrator's order regarding the third sentence of section 4(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 633(b)(1)), relating to nondiscrimination and special considerations for veterans, and take all necessary steps to ensure that its provisions are fully and vigorously implemented.

SEC. 702. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION OFFICE OF ADVOCACY.

Section 202 of Public Law 94-305 (15 U.S.C. 634b) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (10), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (11), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(12) evaluate the efforts of each department and agency of the United States, and of private industry, to assist small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, as defined in section 3(q) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(q)), and small business concerns owned and controlled by serviced-disabled veterans, as defined in such section 3(q), and to provide statistical information on the utilization of such programs by such small business concerns, and to make appropriate recommendations to the Administrator of the Small Business Administration and to the Congress in order to promote the establishment and growth of those small business concerns."

SEC. 703. STUDY OF FIXED-ASSET SMALL BUSINESS LOANS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Comptroller General shall conduct a study on whether there would exist any additional risk or cost to the United States if—

(1) up to 10 percent of the loans guaranteed under chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, were made for the acquisition or construction of fixed assets used in a trade or business rather than for the construction or purchase of residential buildings; and

(2) such loans for acquisition or construction of fixed assets were for a term of not more than 10 years and the terms regarding eligibility, loan limits, interest, fees, and down payment were

the same as for other loans guaranteed under such chapter.

(b) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall transmit the report described in subsection (a) to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and the Committees on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(2) **CONTENTS OF REPORT.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall specifically address the following:

(A) With respect to the change in the veterans' housing loan program contemplated under subsection (a):

(i) The increase or decrease in administrative costs to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(ii) The increase or decrease in the degree of exposure of the United States as the guarantor of the loans.

(iii) The increase or decrease in the Federal subsidy rate that would be possible.

(iv) Any increase in the interest rate or fees charged to the borrower or lender that would be required to maintain present program costs.

(B) Information regarding the delinquency rates, default rates, length of time required for recovery after default, for fixed-asset business loans, of a size and duration comparable to those contemplated under subsection (a), made available in the private market or under section 503 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958.

Mr. TALENT (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, but I will not object, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1658, the Veterans' Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999.

This Nation will provide opportunity for our Nation's veterans by providing them with the resources and assistance that are necessary for establishing their own businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the initial request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1568.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1938 AMENDMENTS

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the

Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 1543) to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 to release and protect the release of tobacco production and marketing information, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 1543

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TOBACCO PRODUCTION AND MARKETING INFORMATION.

Part I of subtitle B of title III of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1311 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 320D. TOBACCO PRODUCTION AND MARKETING INFORMATION.

"(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may, subject to subsection (b), release marketing information submitted by persons relating to the production and marketing of tobacco to State trusts or similar organizations engaged in the distribution of national trust funds to tobacco producers and other persons with interests associated with the production of tobacco, as determined by the Secretary.

"(b) **LIMITATIONS.**—

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Information may be released under subsection (a) only to the extent that—

"(A) the release is in the interest of tobacco producers, as determined by the Secretary; and

"(B) the information is released to a State trust or other organization that is created to, or charged with, distributing funds to tobacco producers or other parties with an interest in tobacco production or tobacco farms under a national or State trust or settlement.

"(2) **EXEMPTION FROM RELEASE.**—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, in advance of making a release of information under subsection (a), allow, by announcement, a period of at least 15 days for persons whose consent would otherwise be required by law to effectuate the release, to elect to be exempt from the release.

"(c) **ASSISTANCE.**—

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In making a release under subsection (a), the Secretary may provide such other assistance with respect to information released under subsection (a) as will facilitate the interest of producers in receiving the funds that are the subject of a trust described in subsection (a).

"(2) **FUNDS.**—The Secretary shall use amounts made available for salaries and expenses of the Department to carry out paragraph (1).

"(d) **RECORDS.**—

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A person that obtains information described in subsection (a) shall maintain records that are consistent with the purposes of the release and shall not use the records for any purpose not authorized under this section.

"(2) **PENALTY.**—A person that knowingly violates this subsection shall be fined not more than \$10,000, imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

"(e) **APPLICATION.**—This section shall not apply to—

"(1) records submitted by cigarette manufacturers with respect to the production of cigarettes;

"(2) records that were submitted as expected purchase intentions in connection with the establishment of national tobacco quotas; or

"(3) records that aggregate the purchases of particular buyers."

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 1543.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I call up from the Speaker's table a privileged Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 51) providing for the conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 51

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring). That when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Thursday, August 5, 1999, Friday, August 6, 1999, or Saturday, August 7, 1999, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Wednesday, September 8, 1999, or until such time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, August 5, 1999, Friday, August 6, 1999, or Saturday, August 7, 1999, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 8, 1999, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA OR HON. FRANK R. WOLF TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 8, 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

August 5, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CONSTANCE A. MORELLA or, if not available to perform this duty, the Honorable Frank R. Wolf to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through September 8, 1999.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is agreed to.

There was no objection.

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AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER, MAJORITY LEADER AND MINORITY LEADER TO ACCEPT RESIGNATIONS AND MAKE APPOINTMENTS, NOTWITHSTANDING ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding any adjournment of the House until Wednesday, September 8, 1999, the Speaker, majority leader and minority leader be authorized to accept resignations and to make appointments authorized by law or by the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1999

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, September 8, 1999.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

CENTRAL AMERICAN AND HAITIAN PARITY ACT OF 1999—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message

from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit for your immediate consideration and enactment the "Central American and Haitian Parity Act of 1999." Also transmitted is a section-by-section analysis. This legislative proposal, which would amend the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act of 1997 (NACARA), is part of my Administration's comprehensive effort to support the process of democratization and stabilization now underway in Central America and Haiti and to ensure equitable treatment for migrants from these countries. The proposed bill would allow qualified nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Haiti an opportunity to become lawful permanent residents of the United States. Consequently, under this bill, eligible nationals of these countries would receive treatment equivalent to that granted to the Nicaraguans and Cubans under NACARA.

Like Nicaraguans and Cubans, many Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Hondurans, and Haitians fled human rights abuses or unstable political and economic conditions in the 1980s and 1990s. Yet these latter groups received lesser treatment than that granted to Nicaraguans and Cubans by NACARA. The United States has a strong foreign policy interest in providing the same treatment to these similarly situated people. Moreover, the countries from which these migrants have come are young and fragile democracies in which the United States has played and will continue to play a very important role. The return of these migrants to these countries would place significant demands on their economic and political systems. By offering legal status to a number of nationals of these countries with longstanding ties in the United States, we can advance our commitment to peace and stability in the region.

Passage of the "Central American and Haitian Parity Act of 1999" will evidence our commitment to fair and even-handed treatment of nationals from these countries and to the strengthening of democracy and economic stability among important neighbors. I urge the prompt and favorable consideration of this legislative proposal by the Congress.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, August 5, 1999.

NOTICE

Incomplete record of House proceedings. Today's House proceedings will be continued in the next issue of the Record.